

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. ^{B-}4713

1. Name

Historic 806-834 North Chapel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 806-834 North Chapel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☐ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of fifteen two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices was built in 1888 by John W. Masson, a local builder who worked in partnership with his brother Thomas E. Masson. Only a few of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were painted and striped, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses. The remainder have been formstoned.

The houses are two stories in height, only 11' 6" wide and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is a one-story backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted and striped. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near both the front and rear of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding decorated with a row of cut-work scallops, supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves and turnings, connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with butterfly-like shapes, created with a jig saw.

The houses have unusual decorative brickwork trim, reminiscent of the fashionable Queen Anne style. The first floor tall, narrow door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels decorated with a slightly projecting row of header bricks with molded ball decorations, as well as scroll-sawn tympanums. Second floor windows have flat wood lintels and all sills are wood. No original sash survive and all windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. The facades are further articulated by a band of decorative brickwork set between the first and second floors, created by running two slightly projecting stretcher rows above and beneath a row of spaced headers. single Doorways had double-light transoms, but no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by two or three concrete steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	X architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	X social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1888

Builder/Architect John W. Masson

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These houses in the 900 block of North Chapel Street are particularly significant as being at the center of the Bohemian immigrant community in Baltimore in the 1880s and 1890s.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by John W. Masson, a local builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

In this particular case Masson developed the entire western half of the block, building slightly wider two story houses on the east side of Wolfe St. (13') and the north side of Madison St. (13'9"). All of the houses sold to mainly Bohemian owner-occupants who followed trades like tailor (a major form of employment for recent immigrants), painter, and machinist. Buyers received mortgages from the several Bohemian community building and loans—the Bohemian Permanent Building and Savings Association, "Slovanstro"; the St. Wenceslaus Building Association, the Bohemian Workingman's Building Association and the Bohemian Northeast Building Association #1.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

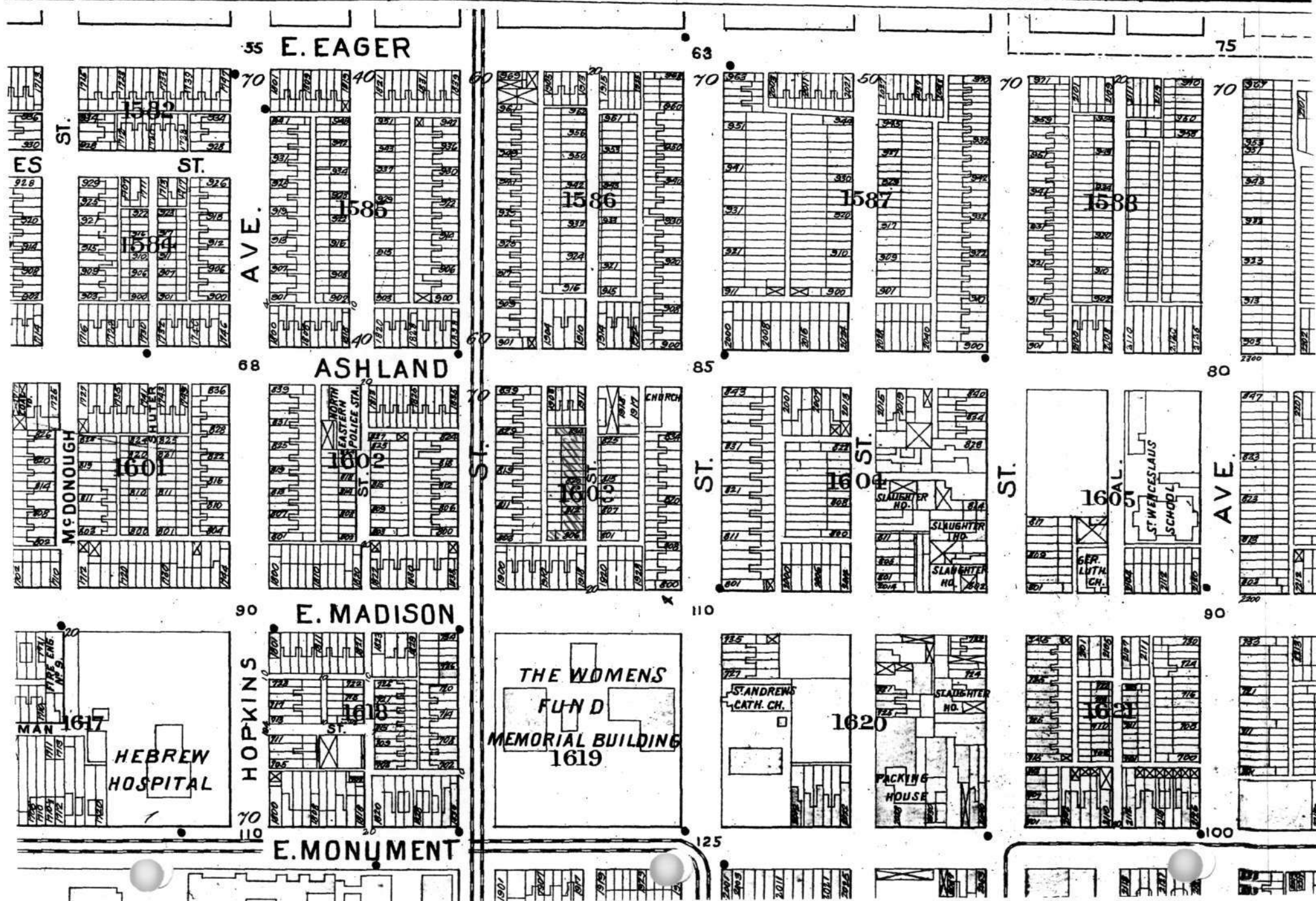
state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

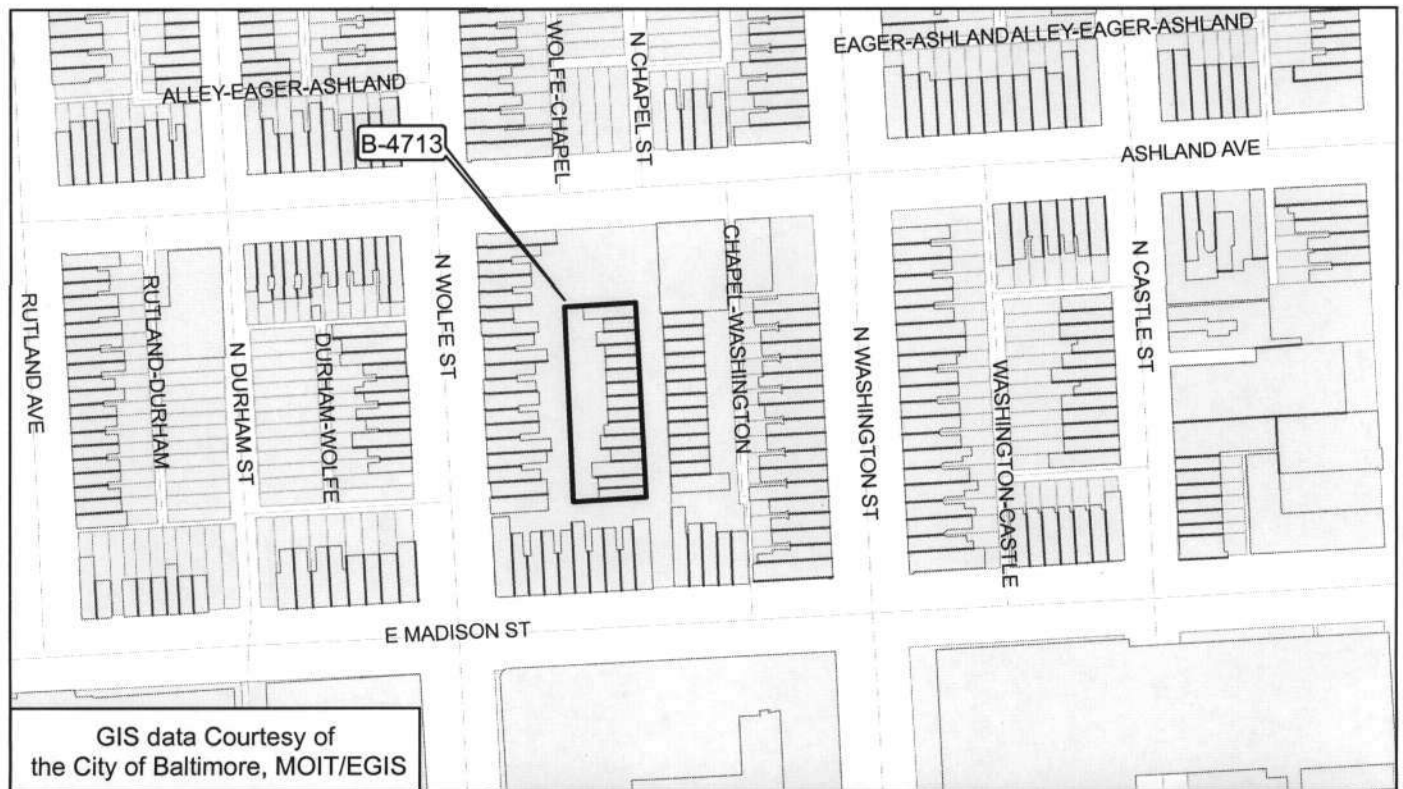
Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

ZALTO MD



B-4713
806-834 N. Chapel Street
Block 1603
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished





B-4713

806-834 N. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

W. Field

6196

EDMUNDSON ST. 9 E. 10

MD SAPO

1/2

800 N. Chapel St.
11/5



824

824 Chapel

53

B-4713

824 N. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

S. Arlan

8/97

MD SHPO

2/2

1023032 0211 N H 132

102